

Appln No. 10/706,024
Amdt date October 8, 2008
Reply to Office action of May 8, 2008

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 9, and cancel claim 8.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for attaching a ring electrode to the shaft of a catheter tip section comprising:

providing a catheter tip section comprising a tubular shaft having at least one lumen extending therethrough and at least one exit hole extending from the outer surface of the shaft of the catheter tip section to the at least one lumen;

passing a portion of an electrode lead wire through the at least one lumen and out of the exit hole;

wrapping the portion of the electrode lead wire that extends out of the exit hole around the circumference of the shaft of the catheter tip section at least one full turn, wherein during wrapping, the shaft of the tip section is heated sufficiently to soften the material of the tip section shaft, wherein the shaft is heated using a heating block or rod configured to form a cradle to receive a portion of the tip section adjacent the exit hole;

~~sealing the exit hole with a sealant;~~

sliding a ring electrode having a proximal portion comprising a flared skirt over the shaft of the catheter tip section and positioning the ring electrode directly over the circumferentially wrapped electrode lead wire;

swaging the ring electrode to reduce its outer diameter sufficiently to secure the ring electrode to the shaft of the catheter tip, wherein the outer diameter of the swaged ring electrode is about the same as the outer diameter of the shaft of the catheter tip.

2. (Previously Presented) A method for attaching a ring electrode to the shaft of a catheter tip section as claimed in claim 1 wherein the electrode lead wire is wrapped around the

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circumference of the shaft of the catheter tip section sufficiently tightly so that the outermost surface of the electrode lead wire is generally flush with the outer surface of the shaft of the catheter tip section.

3. (Original) A method for attaching a ring electrode to the shaft of a catheter tip section as claimed in claim 1 wherein the electrode lead wire is wrapped circumferentially around the shaft of the tip section at least two turns.

4. (Original) A method for attaching a ring electrode to the shaft of a catheter tip section as claimed in claim 1 wherein the electrode lead wire is wrapped circumferentially around the shaft of the tip section and secured thereto in a clove hitch arrangement.

5. (Previously Presented) A method for attaching a ring electrode to the shaft of a catheter tip section as claimed in claim 1 wherein the skirt is flared radially outwardly at an angle of about 4 to about 8 degrees.

6. (Previously Presented) A method for attaching a ring electrode to the shaft of a catheter tip section as claimed in claim 5 wherein the skirt is flared radially outwardly at an angle of about 6 degrees.

7. (Original) A method for attaching a ring electrode to the shaft of a catheter tip section as claimed in claim 1 wherein the electrode lead wire comprises a non-conductive coating and the non-conductive coating is removed from the portion of the electrode lead wire that extends out of the exit hole.

8. (Canceled).

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9. (Currently Amended) A method for attaching a ring electrode to the shaft of a catheter tip section as claimed in claim [[8]] 1 wherein the shaft of the tip section is made of polyurethane and is heated to from about 90°C to about 110°C during the wrapping step.